

## Appendix 1: Semi-Structured Interview Protocol - Ridgecrest Earthquakes

**Facility Name:**

**Status (Circle all that apply):** Evacuated/Sheltered-in-place/Closed/Re-opened

### QUESTIONS (*Tailor questions below based on status*)

1. Who has the authority to make the decision to evacuate or shelter-in-place at your healthcare facility? How about to close or re-open your healthcare facility?
2. Tell me about your experience during the earthquake.
3. What was your role in the response?
4. Tell me about your facility's decision to *evacuate/shelter-in-place or close/re-open* during the Ridgecrest earthquakes?
5. How did your facility decide it should *evacuate/shelter-in-place or close/re-open*? What processes were used to reach this decision?
6. What influenced your decision to *evacuate/shelter-in-place or close/re-open*?
7. What information or data informed the decision?
  - a. Did you use any guidance to help you decide whether or not to *evacuate/shelter/close/re-open* your facility?
  - b. Did you have a written plan about evacuation and sheltering? Did you utilize that? How did it guide your decision-making?
8. Have you revised your plans or procedures for making evacuation or sheltering-in-place decisions for future events?
  - a. If so, what were the changes?
  - b. If not, what would you want to change?
9. What were the implications of evacuating/sheltering-in-place/closing? Were there adverse outcomes?
10. How do you believe health care facility evacuation/sheltering/closure/re-opening decision-making can be improved?
  - a. What are the three most important things that should be changed or done to improve future healthcare facility evacuation/sheltering/closure/re-opening decision-making?
  - b. Thinking specifically about the interaction between the government and healthcare facilities, how can policies for healthcare evacuation and sheltering be improved?

### CLOSING REMARKS

This conversation has been very helpful. Those are all the questions that I have for you today.

11. Is there anything else you would like to tell me - anything that you think is important for me to know?

12. Would you mind if I contacted you again if I have any follow-up questions?
13. Whom should I talk to in order to learn more?
14. Do you have any questions for me?

Thank you for participating in this study! We all appreciate your time. The information you have given us will help us provide valuable insight into the decision-making processes on hospital evacuations.